

10 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Representative L. Mendel Rivers,
10 July 1963

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1. On 10 July [] and I met with Representative L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman, Subcommittee No. 1, House Armed Services Committee, to which the CIA early retirement legislation has been referred. Mr. Rivers was most cordial, and when we stressed that the early retirement was by far the most important item for consideration, he said he understood the problem as before he went to Congress he had been in Justice where he knew of the FBI's early retirement authorization. He said he could understand why our overseas service would need young and active men and therefore sympathized with the provision. We pointed out that we were asking for nothing that had not already been authorized for other agencies and that the other provisions of the bill were mostly cleaning up administrative odds and ends and bringing ourselves in line with other current legislation.

2. Mr. Rivers said he was deeply involved in some military hearings and, since he expected it would be a long time before Congress would adjourn, he would hope we would agree to start our hearings immediately after his current series, which would take about two weeks. We agreed that we would aim for the last week in July, and he asked us to work out the scheduling with John R. Blandford, Counsel, House Committee on Armed Services. Mr. Rivers asked if the hearings could be completed within a week, and we said that since no basically new authorities were being requested we would hope that a week would suffice. Mr. Rivers agreed with our suggestion that classified material be left with Mr. Blandford to be made available to members of Subcommittee No. 1 on their request, and we said we would have unclassified material distributed to the Subcommittee. Mr. Rivers said we should get in touch particularly with Mr. Porter Hardy and Mr. Arends, and we said we had planned to get in touch with each

member of the Subcommittee and certain other members of Congress to describe our proposal. Mr. Rivers endorsed this course of action. He said he felt we would have real difficulty in getting things in motion in the Senate, and Senator Russell did not propose to take up anything during the Civil Rights fight except the military pay bill. We said we had been in touch with Senator Russell and he knew of our proposal. We said there was one tax provision involving disability annuities in our bill which we felt should be explained to the Ways and Means Committee, and Mr. Rivers concurred.

3. As a general comment, Mr. Rivers said he felt that we might have a good deal more credit on the Hill than we might count on and this was particularly true since Mr. McCone took over as Director. On the whole he seemed rather optimistic about the final passage of our legislation.

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S/ Lawrence R. Houston

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